BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 94-391-G, 95-1101-G & 95-990-G - ORDER NO. 95-1661

NOVEMBER 7, 1995

IN RE: DOCKET NO. 94-391-G South Carolina Pipeline Corporation Application for Request for Waiver of R.103-475.5 a.(1) Rotary Meter Test Requirements and Accuracy DOCKET NO. 95-1101-G ORDER APPROVING South Carolina Electric & Gas Company WAIVERS AND Application for Request for Waiver **ESTABLISHING** of R.103-475.5 a.(1) Rotary Meter MODIFICATIONS Test Requirements and Accuracy. DOCKET NO. 95-990-G United Cities Gas Company Application for Request for Waiver of R.103-475-5 a.(1) Rotary Meter Test Requirements and Accuracy.

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of South Carolina Pipeline Corporation (Pipeline), South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G), and United Cities Gas Company (United Cities) for a waiver of the testing and accuracy requirements pertaining to rotary gas displacement measurement meters as provided by the Commission Regulations.

Commission Regulation 103.475.5 a.(1) requires that gas rotary meters be tested at 20% of rated capacity and at full flow (equal

to or in excess of operating load requirements) with an accuracy requirement of 98.5% - 100.5%.

The companies request that they be required to test the check flow and that they be allowed to test the full flow only up to the linear portion of the accuracy curve of rotary meters. Further, the companies request that the accuracy requirement for such meters be set at 99% - 101%. The companies assert that they should not have to maintain a higher percent accuracy than the national standard (American National Standards Institute) for rotary type gas displacement meters. Additionally, the companies have put forth opinions that once a rotary meter has reached a volume above a certain capacity (normally around 10%), the accuracy curve remains virtually unchanged over the full range of operation.

Regulation 103-401 (3) allows a waiver of Regulations in any case where compliance introduces unusual difficulty. The Regulation allows the Commission to waive Regulations upon a finding by the Commission that such waiver is in the public interest.

The Commission has examined this matter and believes that this finding is applicable in the present situation. Also, we find that compliance with the Regulation as stated introduces unusual difficulty since the Regulation standards are more stringent than the accepted national standards. Therefore, the waiver and

modification as proposed by Pipeline, SCE&G and United Cities should be granted. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

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ATTEST:

Executive Director

(SEAL)